ment from the allotted sites. Efforts are being made to resolve the problem early.

Purchase of iodised salt by N.C.C.F.

461. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1856 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November 1988 and state:

(a) the name and address of the supplier of iodised salt to NCCF and quantity purchased;

(b) whether the purchases were made through the established procedure of inviting tenders or through pick-and-choose;

(c) whether the purchase was made with the approval of competent authority, if so, the name of that Authority;

(d) the quantity found 'Unfit for human conspmption' by the Public Analyst;

(e) whether any precautions were taken to ensure quality control and, if not, the officer responsible therefor;

(f) whether Bank guarantees were taken from the handling Agent for 'Due performance' of duties and if not, why and the officers responsible for this serious loss and the disciplinary action taken against him; and

(g) whether the legal adviser of NCCF have advised the Federation to file a suit on Mizoram Court instead of taking any action against the involved officers of NCCF, as alleged in the 'Purchanot' weekly of 8th December, 1988?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) NCCF have reported that it had purchased 3320.825 MTs (44.291 bags) of iodizeed salt from Hindustan Salt Ltd. of Rajasthan, a Government of India undertaking, without inviting tenders and the purchases were made by the Regional Manager (East).

(d) NCCF had a stock of 35415 bags in stock when the Public Analyst declared salt as unfit for human consumption.

(e) The purchase was from the Government of India Undertaking and the NCCF appointed a handling agent at suppliers end to supervise, despatches after selection of proper quality heaps, getting the salt properly crushed, packed and also by checking quality and quantity.

(f) No bank guarantee was taken from the handling agent as normally no guarantee is taken in such cases.

(g) Since the Mizoram Government failed to lift the stock against its commitment and the handling agent failed to keep the stock in safe custody and reported shortages, the NCCF have decided to file a suit in the Court against the parties for the loss suffered.

Production of Aluminium in the Country

462. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of aluminium in the country at present;

(b) how much quantity of aluminium is needed for our consumption every year and what has been the shortfall in the last five years and the resultant imports during those years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to stop its import from the next year; and

(d) if so, how does Government propose to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) During 1988-89, the to-